

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony G.
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DHMH Secretary Josh
Sharfstein

July 12, 2013

Adventist HealthCare Receives Funding for Disparities Training



New state funding now allows Adventist HealthCare to train hospital employees across the state to collect better data about patients' racial and ethnic backgrounds, something officials believe will help address disparities in health care among different

communities.

The Montgomery County-based health provider's Center on Health Disparities was awarded \$14,000 from the state's Health Services Cost Review Commission, effective June 1, to hold three seminars, one for central Maryland, one for Western Maryland, and one for the Eastern Shore. Each will include a panel discussion with hospital patients who will talk about their experiences as well as their reactions to being asked about race, ethnicity and language preference. The sessions will provide hospital staffers with updates and best practices for collecting data on race and ethnicity from patients and their families.

Training is key because while hospitals do collect demographic data on patients, questions about race or language preference can sometimes offend patients, which can make those who need to ask the questions apprehensive, said Marcos Pesquera, executive director of the Center on Health Disparities. As the industry relies more on electronic medical records, collecting accurate, uniform data becomes more important because it can reveal trends affecting various social, ethnic, and economic groups. The training will promote accurate data-collection.

Click [here](#) to view disparities reports for different regions around the state.

**Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health
Disparities Releases New Resource Kit**

The Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD) recently released a new resource that has the most current information on local consultants in cultural and linguistic competency and health literacy in Maryland. ***The Maryland***

Cultural Competency Technical Assistance Resource Kit is designed to make it easy for local health departments, the state's new Health Enterprise Zones, and other community organizations to offer training or services related to cultural competency, health literacy, language services, and/or workforce diversity to best serve Maryland residents.

The kit provides a directory of health equity experts, including researchers, evaluators, providers of training and technical assistance, and experts in cultural and linguistic competence and health literacy. These experts have experience at the local, state, and national levels.

Click [here](#) to access the Maryland Cultural Competency Technical Assistance Resource Kit.

Interested in including your information in the directory? Click [here](#) to e-mail MHHD.

Webinar - Our Strength and Support: Celebrating National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Wednesday, July 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month JULY

This July, organizations across the country will be taking part in this year's celebration of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. We come together this time of year to keep building awareness of the importance of mental health and supports in every community. To help you get ready to take part, SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Solutions has organized a webinar for July 17.

A panel of inspiring presenters will share their perspectives on mental health in minority communities, emphasizing the strengths of our cultural communities to come together to find support and carry a banner of hope for all individuals touched by mental illness.



Click [here](#) to register.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the number of emergency department visits due to behavioral health conditions.

The New Health Care Law and You

The new Health Insurance Marketplace (HIM) will open for enrollment on October 1, 2013. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has updated [HealthCare.gov](#) to make it consumer-friendly. For Spanish-speaking consumers, [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](#) will also be updated. The website allows visitors to enter a few basic questions about their household to find out what coverage options they may be eligible for, and provides a checklist to help get ready to apply.

Maryland residents and small businesses can visit [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](#) to learn about their coverage options once the state's health insurance marketplace begins enrollment October 1, and to sign up for e-mail or text updates.

In addition, there is a new toll-free Health Insurance Marketplace call center (800-318-2596) open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, where consumers can obtain information on their state's marketplace.



Click above to play the video

Additional Resources

A guide for consumers: "[The New Health Care Law and You](#)."

A brief video explaining how to get and buy insurance in the new marketplace: "[Let's Ask 4](#)"

The new hhs.gov/healthcare has all the fact sheets, blogs, and news about the Affordable Care Act.

The latest official materials about the Marketplace can be found at the new [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services resource site](#).

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has created an [Affordable Care Act and HRSA Programs web site](#), which has information specific to its safety net providers.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) to increase the proportion of individuals with health insurance.

News from the Office of Primary Care Access

2014 Annual Rural Health Conference and 2013 Rural Multicultural and Multiracial Conference Presentation Deadline - July 15, 2013

The 2014 Annual Rural Health Conference and 2013 Rural Multicultural and Multiracial Conference presentation deadlines are right around the corner! Help ensure Maryland is well represented at the National Rural Health Association's upcoming conferences. Click [here](#) to submit a presentation for NRHA's 2014 Annual Rural Health Conference, which covers all facets of rural health and will be held April 22-25 in Las Vegas. Click [here](#) to submit your topic for this year's Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference, which will be held December 3-5 in San Antonio. Submissions for both events will be accepted through July 15.

USDA Telemedicine Grant

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expected to release a Notice of Funding Availability for their Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program (DLT). DLT efforts are aimed at serving rural America. The DLT grant program is designed to assist community facilities serving rural areas to acquire distance learning and telemedical technologies. Each award will be between \$50,000 and \$500,000, with an expected total of \$17 million available. See DLT web site for eligibility requirements. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact their State USDA Rural Development Office for support and to click [here](#) to e-mail Sam Morgan to notify USDA of their interest. Click [here](#) to e-mail the DLT program with questions.